

Application No.: 09/882,109

Docket No.: 20136-00324-US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Original) A process for identifying an attention level in an electronic mail item being sent to multiple recipients comprising:
  - creating a list of addresses for said recipients;
  - appending to each of said addresses a tag representing an attention level for said recipients;
  - creating a text message for each of said recipients which includes each of said addresses and the appended tag;
  - forwarding said text message to said recipients; and
  - displaying for each recipient said text message with an attention level indication in response to the tag associated with the recipients address.
2. (Original) The process for identifying an attention level according to claim 1 further comprising:
  - prompting a user to append said tag to said address when said list is created.

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3. (Original) The process for identifying an attention level according to claim 1 wherein said step of appending said tag to said address comprises:

selecting said attention level from a table displayed on a user's display screen; selecting an address from a table containing said address list; and

attaching a tag representing said attention level to said selected address.

4. (Original) The process for identifying an attention level according to claim 1 further comprising attaching a tag representing a default attention level when an attention level is not specified for an address.

5. (Original) The process for identifying an attention level according to claim 1 further comprising ordering each message to be displayed by a recipient according to said attention level.

6. (Original) The process for identifying an attention level according to claim 1 further comprising:

identifying a specific portion of said text message to be highlighted for a specific address; and

attaching a tag to said specific address identifying said highlighted portion of said text.

7. (Original) The process for identifying an attention level according to claim 6 wherein said step of attaching said tag to said specific address for

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identifying said highlighted portion of text further comprises displaying a table of said addresses following highlighting of said text; and selecting said address from said table which is to receive said tag identifying said highlighted portion.

8. (canceled)

9. (Original) A method for displaying electronic messages at a user's display terminal comprising:

determining from a tag inserted in a field of said message whether any portion of said message is highlighted; and

displaying said message with said portion highlighted.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9 wherein said tag is inserted in an address field of said message.

11. (Original) An electronic mail system for generating mail messages which have an attention level comprising:

a computer terminal having a processor which executes an electronic mail program for performing the steps of:

composing a mail message for a plurality of addressees;

creating a table of addressees to receive the same mail message;

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identifying in an address field of said same mail message an attention level for each addressee; and

transmitting said mail message to said addressees.

12. (Original) The electronic mail system according to claim 11 wherein said computer program performs the additional steps of:

displaying on said computer terminal a pop-up table which identifies each address to which said mail message is directed;

displaying on said computer terminal a pop-up table which identifies various attention levels which may be assigned to each addressee; and

inserting a tag identifying one of said attention levels in said address field in response to a user selection of one of said addresses and one of said attention levels.

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (Original) A computer readable medium for storing a program which is executed by a computer system of an electronic mail system, said program executing the steps of:

composing a mail message for a plurality of addressees;

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creating a table of addressees to receive the same mail message;

identifying in an address field of said same mail message an attention level for each addressee; and

transmitting said mail message to said addressees.

16. (Original) The computer readable medium according to claim 15 wherein said computer program executes the additional steps of:

displaying on said computer terminal a pop-up table which identifies each address to which said mail message is directed;

displaying on said computer terminal a pop-up table which identifies various attention levels which may be assigned to each addressee; and

inserting a tag identifying one of said attention levels in said address field in response to a user selection of one of said addresses and one of said attention levels.

17. (Original) A computer readable medium for storing a program which is executed by a computer system of an electronic mail system, said program executing the steps of:

receiving electronic mail messages generated by another computer terminal storing said electronic mail message in a memory;

determining if said message contains a tag identifying an attention level for said message;

displaying said attention level with said message.

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18. (canceled)

19. (Original) A computer readable medium for storing a program which is executed by a computer system of an electronic mail system, said program executing the steps of:

determining from a tag inserted in a field of said message whether any portion of said message is highlighted; and

displaying said message with said portion highlighted.